

REMARKS

In the most recent official action, of pending claims 98-172 and 174-205, claims 115-172, 174-200 and 202-205 were rejected under 35 USC §112 as indefinite, claims 101-103 were withdrawn from consideration, and claims 98-100, 104-114 and 201 were allowed.

As an initial matter, the applicants note that the claim numbering used in the paper filed on May 8, 2002 inadvertently omitted the claim number 173. As requested by the examiner on page 2 of the most recent action, the applicants have renumbered claims 174-205 so that these claims now correspond to claims 173-204 as set forth in the foregoing amendments.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the related objection noted on page 2 of the most recent action.

To address the indefiniteness rejections noted on pages 2 through 4 of the most recent action, the applicants have made clarifying amendments set forth in the foregoing amendments. The applicants submit that these clarifying amendments overcome the indefiniteness rejections and, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejections.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the applicants submit that the claims pending in the instant application are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

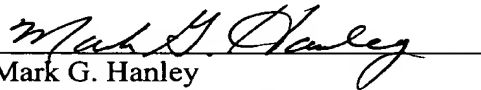
PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 20071/10005

If there are any remaining issues in this application, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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December 17, 2003